

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants submit this Amendment in reply to the Office Action mailed November 29, 2006. In this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to more appropriately define their invention. Claims 1, 2, and 6-11 remain pending, with claims 1 and 2 presented for examination.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0097211 to Carroll et al. ("Carroll") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0210363 to Kataghishi et al. ("Kataghishi").

Applicants propose to amend independent claim 1 to recite "getting vehicle model information from the vehicle and . . . function set up information storage means for storing the vehicle model information and at least one of related design information and function setting information." Support for these amendments can be found in the Applicants' specification at, for example, page 3, lines 15-18; page 13, lines 6-11; page 16, line 3, through page 17, line 15; and Figures 1, 3A, 3B, 4, 6, 7, and 8. Accordingly, there is no issue of new matter.

Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carroll and Kataghishi. No *prima facie* case of obviousness has been established.

In particular, neither Carroll nor Kataghishi, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest each and every element of amended claim 1. For example, Carroll and Kataghishi at least fail to teach or suggest "storing the vehicle model information and at

least one of related design information and function setting information,” as recited in amended claim 1.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner concedes “Carroll et al. does not mention [a] storage means for storing the vehicle model information and related design information [or] function information.” Office Action, page 3, ¶ 3 (emphasis added). Regarding Kataghishi, the Examiner alleges “onboard apparatus (3) comprise[s] a storage device (34) that stores vehicle model information such as manufacturer ID, car ID, etc. (Kataghishi et al. page 3, paragraph 0032, line 7.).” Office Action, page 4, ¶ 3 (emphasis added). Nevertheless, even if Kataghishi discloses storing vehicle model information, and Applicants do not concede that it does, Kataghishi is silent with respect to design information and function setting information. Accordingly, neither Carroll nor Kataghishi, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest each “storing the vehicle model information and at least one of related design information and function setting information,” as recited in amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Carroll and Kataghishi. Additionally, claim 2 is allowable over these references at least due to its corresponding dependence from claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1 and 2 in condition for allowance. Applicants submit that the proposed amendment of claim 1 does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully point out that the Final Office Action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against

Applicants' invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow Applicants to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

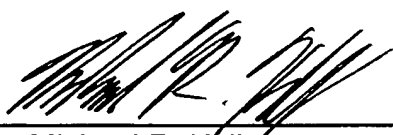
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art reference cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: January 23, 2007

By: 
Michael R. Kelly
Reg. No. 33,921